

Draft
Mr. Webb/mfn
March 16, 1961

INTRODUCTION OF DR. HUGH LATIMER DRYDEN
AT GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER DEDICATION

Anyone who assumes to introduce Hugh Dryden to this audience is certainly expected, at the very least, to state his own qualifications and eligibility for such an assignment. In my own case I can only say that he joined with the President and the Vice President in asking me to serve as Administrator, and I in turn as my first request to the President asked that he be continued as Deputy Administrator. One of our nation's most distinguished and outstanding leaders in advanced science and technology, an administrator who has never let management responsibilities dilute his scientific competence, the author of more than 100 technical papers, and a great humanist and human being, Dr. Dryden started as an honor student at Johns Hopkins University.

completed his work for the degree Doctor of Philosophy,
and has personally participated in every major advance in
the field of aeronautics and astronautics for ~~almost 40~~
~~years. For~~ more than 40 years~~X~~. To introduce the
distinguished President of the National Academy of
Sciences today, Dr. Dryden speaks with the authority of
membership in the Senior Council of this most senior of
our high scientific councils and speaks also as the only
member of the National Academy of Sciences currently
serving in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
A great American and a great example to all Americans, I
present Dr. Hugh L. Dryden.

CONGRESSMAN OVERTON BROOKS
HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE
FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
ASTRONAUTICS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MR.
BROOKS' COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS
THAT OF THE SENATE SPACE COMMITTEE,
IN JANUARY OF 1959, MARKED THE
FIRST TIME IN THIS CENTURY THAT
THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HAS ESTABLISHED TWO PERMANENT
NEW COMMITTEES IN RESPONSE TO A
MAJOR NEW NATIONAL INTEREST.
THE CRUCIAL NATURE OF THE
NATIONAL SPACE PROGRAM, THEREFORE,

AS VIEWED BY THE NATIONAL
LEGISLATURE, IS OBVIOUS.

MR. BROOKS, AN ALUMNUS OF
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, IS
AN ATTORNEY BY PROFESSION BUT
HAS ONE OF THE MOST SEASONED
BACKGROUNDS IN NATIONAL POLITICS
OF ANY MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS.
IN FACT, OUT OF 537 MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS ONLY 25 HAVE SEEN MORE
SERVICE THAN MR. BROOKS.

IN THE QUARTER OF A CENTURY
THAT REPRESENTATIVE BROOKS HAS
BEEN SERVING HIS STATE AND THE
NATION IN THE CONGRESS HE HAS
ACQUIRED A BACKGROUND WHICH WELL
EQUIPPED HIM TO STEP INTO THE

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CHAIRMANSHIP OF THIS VERY
IMPORTANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
WHEN IT WAS FORMED. IN ADDITION
TO SERVING ON VARIOUS NON-EXCLUSIVE
AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES MR. BROOKS
SPENT 22 YEARS WITH THE HOUSE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. AT
THE TIME THAT HE TOOK OVER HIS
PRESENT POST HE WAS RANKING
MAJORITY MEMBER OF THE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEE AND IN LINE
TO SUCCEED TO ITS CHAIRMANSHIP.

EARLY IN 1958 WHEN THE HOUSE
ESTABLISHED ITS SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASTRONAUTICS AND SPACE EXPLORA-
TION IN RESPONSE TO STRONG NATIONAL
DEMANDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF

THE AMERICAN SPACE PROGRAM, MR. BROOKS WAS APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER AS A MEMBER OF THIS BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE. WHEN IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRO-NAUTICS SHOULD BE SET UP, MR. BROOKS GAVE UP HIS SENIORITY ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW COMMITTEE.

MR. BROOKS' COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE HARDEST WORKING COMMITTEES ON CAPITOL HILL EVER SINCE. IN THE TWO YEARS OF HIS DIRECTORSHIP THE COMMITTEE HAS

HELD OVER 50 SERIES OF HEARINGS,
HAS ISSUED SOME 45 LEGISLATIVE
AND STUDY REPORTS, AND HAS
LISTENED TO MORE THAN 600
WITNESSES. THIS REPRESENTS AN
EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF EFFORT,
PARTICULARLY WHEN WE RECOGNIZE
THAT TODAY ALMOST EVERY MEMBER
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MUST REPRESENT CLOSE TO HALF A
MILLION PEOPLE IN HIS HOME
DISTRICT AS WELL AS DO HIS
COMMITTEE AND FLOOR WORK. MR.
BROOKS, HOWEVER, HAS FELT THAT
SINCE THE AREA OF INTEREST OF
THE SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

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COMMITTEE IS SO BROAD AND
ENCOMPASSES SO MANY NEW TECHNICAL
AND DIFFICULT FIELDS THAT IT WAS
NECESSARY TO PROCEED IN HIGH GEAR
IN ORDER TO MAKE THE COMMITTEE A
KNOWLEDGABLE AND AN EFFICIENT
LEGISLATIVE GROUP.

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